

Serial No. 09/986,913

Docket No. 1186.1020

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, ~~[[double brackets]]~~ are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1, 9, 21, and 33-35 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A laminated composite comprising:
an optical layer having a light reflectivity; and
a latent image formation layer, the latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on one of major surfaces of the optical layer,
wherein said latent image formation layer comprises at least one oriented portion in which chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the latent image formation layer, and at least one non-oriented portion in which an orientation degree of the chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material is lower than an orientation degree of the chains in the oriented portion, and
wherein said at least one oriented portion and said at least one non-oriented portion constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the composite ~~and recognizable by a visual observation of the composite through a polarizing member if the polarizing member is arranged at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer, and~~
wherein said laminated composite is configured to visualize the latent image by arranging a polarizing member at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer.
2. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystalline polymer material is a thermotropic liquid crystalline polymer material.
3. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said optical layer is a specular reflection layer.

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4. (original) The composite according to claim 3, further comprising an OVD layer either on the latent image formation layer or between the specular reflection layer and the latent image formation layer.

5. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said optical layer is an OVD layer.

6. (previously presented) The composite according to claim 1, further comprising a protection layer, which has a light transmissivity and protects the latent image, on the latent image formation layer.

7. (original) The composite according to claim 6, wherein said protection layer has a light scattering property.

8. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said polarizing member is a circularly polarizing member.

9. (currently amended) An information recording medium comprising:
a light reflective substrate with a light reflective surface; and
a latent image formation layer, the latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the light reflective surface,

wherein said latent image formation layer comprises at least one oriented portion in which chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the latent image formation layer, and at least one non-oriented portion in which an orientation degree of the chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material is lower than an orientation degree of the chains in the oriented portion, and

wherein said at least one oriented portion and said at least one non-oriented portion constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the medium and recognizable by a visual observation of the medium through a polarizing member if the polarizing member is arranged at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer, and

wherein said information recording medium is configured to visualize the latent image by arranging a polarizing member at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer.

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10. (original) The medium according to claim 9, wherein said liquid crystalline polymer material is a thermotropic liquid crystalline polymer material.

11. (previously presented) The medium according to claim 9, wherein said light reflective substrate comprises a laminated structure of an information-recorded substrate and an optical layer facing the latent image formation layer and having a light reflectivity.

12. (original) The medium according to claim 11, wherein said optical layer is a specular reflection layer.

13. (original) The medium according to claim 12, further comprising an OVD layer either on the latent image formation layer or between the specular reflection layer and the latent image formation layer.

14. (original) The medium according to claim 11, wherein said optical layer is an OVD layer.

15. (previously presented) The medium according to claim 9, further comprising a protection layer, which has a light transmissivity and protects the latent image formation layer, on the latent image formation layer.

16. (original) The medium according to claim 15, wherein said protection layer has a light scattering property.

17. (original) The medium according to claim 11, wherein said light reflective substrate further comprises a base layer between the information-recorded substrate and the optical layer.

18. (original) The medium according to claim 17, wherein said base layer is an adhesive layer.

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19. (original) The medium according to claim 17, further comprising a sticky layer between said information-recorded substrate and said base layer.

20. (original) The medium according to claim 9, wherein said polarizing member is a circularly polarizing member.

21. (currently amended) A member of imparting a forgery-preventing characteristic comprising:

a base layer;

an optical layer provided on one of major surfaces of the base layer and having a light reflectivity; and

a latent image formation layer, the latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the optical layer,

wherein said latent image formation layer comprises at least one oriented portion in which chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the latent image formation layer, and at least one non-oriented portion in which an orientation degree of the chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material is lower than an orientation degree of the chains in the oriented portion, and

wherein said at least one oriented portion and said at least one non-oriented portion constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the member of imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic and recognizable by a visual observation of the member of imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic through a polarizing member if the polarizing member is arranged at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer, and

wherein said member of imparting a forgery-preventing characteristic is configured to visualize the latent image by arranging a polarizing member at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer.

22. (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said liquid crystalline polymer material is a thermotropic liquid crystalline polymer material.

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23. (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said optical layer is a specular reflection layer.

24. (original) The member according to claim 23, further comprising an OVD layer either on the latent image formation layer or between the specular reflection layer and the latent image formation layer.

25. (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said optical layer is an OVD layer.

26. (previously presented) The member according to claim 21, further comprising a protection layer, which has a light transmissivity and protects the latent image formation layer, on the latent image formation layer.

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) The member according to claim 26, wherein said protection layer has a light scattering property.

29. (previously presented) The member according to claim 21, wherein said base layer is an adhesive layer.

30. (previously presented) The member according to claim 21, further comprising a sticky layer on said base layer.

31. (previously presented) The member according to claim 21, further comprising a release layer releasably provided on the base layer.

32. (previously presented) The member according to claim 21, wherein said polarizing member is a circularly polarizing member.

33. (currently amended) A laminated composite comprising:

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an optical layer having a light reflectivity; and
a patterned latent image formation layer, the patterned latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on one of major surfaces of the optical layer,

wherein chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the patterned latent image formation layer, and

wherein said patterned latent image formation layer and an opening portion of the patterned latent image formation layer constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the composite ~~and recognizable by a visual observation of the composite through a polarizing member if the polarizing member is arranged at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer, and~~

wherein said laminated composite is configured to visualize the latent image by arranging a polarizing member at an observer side close to the patterned latent image formation layer.

34. (currently amended) An information recording medium comprising:

a light reflective substrate with a light reflective surface; and
a patterned latent image formation layer, the patterned latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the light reflective surface,

wherein chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the patterned latent image formation layer, and

wherein said patterned latent image formation layer and an opening portion of the patterned latent image formation layer constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the medium ~~and recognizable by a visual observation of the medium through a polarizing member if the polarizing member is arranged at an observer side close to the patterned latent image formation layer, and~~

wherein said information recording medium is configured to visualize the latent image by arranging a polarizing member at an observer side close to the patterned latent image formation layer.

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35. (currently amended) A member imparting a forgery-preventing characteristic comprising:

a base layer;

an optical layer provided on one of major surfaces of the base layer and having a light reflectivity; and

a patterned latent image formation layer, the latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the optical layer,

wherein chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the patterned latent image formation layer, and

wherein said patterned latent image formation layer and an opening portion of the patterned latent image formation layer constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the member of the imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic ~~and recognizable by a visual observation of the member imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic through a polarizing member if the polarizing member is arranged at an observer side close to the latent image formation layer, and~~

wherein the member of imparting a forgery-preventing characteristic is configured to visualize the latent image by arranging a polarizing member at an observer side close to the patterned latent image formation layer.